

Hammerstrom's

for the people
in the 17th Senate District

Hotline



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JOINT COMMITTEE CREATED TO SPUR ECONOMIC GROWTH: Michigan is in need of new business investment that will create good-paying jobs for working families, and a bicameral committee was recently established that will make recommendations on how to achieve that goal. The Joint Committee on Business Competitiveness was created to look at ways to make Michigan more competitive and study the issues affecting Michigan's economy. The committee encompasses five members from each chamber and will issue its report to the Legislature by September 1, 2003. There are many issues affecting business competitiveness in Michigan—tax policy, government regulations, technological needs, national trends, international trade and job preparedness—that the committee will examine before issuing the report. Committee hearings will be conducted across the state and will receive testimony from a wide range of interested parties.

EUCL BILL REPORTED FROM TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY COMMITTEE: Legislation providing for adequate oversight of the End User Common Line (EUCL) fee billed to consumers by local telephone providers was favorably reported out of the Senate Technology and Energy Committee recently. Senate Bill 1 would require local telephone providers to justify the EUCL fee to the Michigan Public Service Commission. The commission would then have the authority to determine if the charge was a legitimate business expense on consumers. All phone customers, including senior citizens and multi-line small businesses, are subject to the EUCL fee. Senate Bill 1 will now be sent to the full Senate for consideration.

CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND ACCEPTING 2004 REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS: Information is now available for the fiscal year 2004 direct service Request for Proposal applications with the Michigan Children's Trust Fund. All applications submitted for consideration must first be approved by the County's Child Abuse and Neglect Council. A technical assistance session for prospective applicants will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2003 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Family Independence Agency Grand Tower Building, room 1-C—Dempsey Room. Questions and information requests may be directed to the Children's Trust Fund office at (517) 373-4320.

MERCURY MARKETING CHARGED WITH CRAMMING: Attorney General Mike Cox is taking action against Mercury Marketing of Delaware, Inc., for civil fraud and violations of the Michigan Consumer Protection Act. The Pennsylvania-based firm also does business as Mercury Internet, Venus Voice Mail Services under CEO Neal Safterstein. The action alleges the use of unfair and deceptive business practices in the sale of Internet services, such as the design and hosting of web pages and toll-free voice mail, resulting in unauthorized charges being added to the telephone bills of residents, small businesses and churches. To file a complaint about this issue with the Attorney General's office, call toll-free 877-765-8388.

DID YOU KNOW? Jackson can boast of having two former residents among the list of distinguished citizens who hold the honor of traveling to the moon and back. Colonel James McDivitt and Major Alfred Worden are both Jackson natives that can claim that privilege.